

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this response, as the response places the application in clear condition for allowance, or alternatively at least places the claims in better form for appeal. In particular, Applicants have amended independent Claim 15 to overcome an objection, and have amended independent Claims 1, 10, 15, 21, and 22 to recite subject matter that Examiner McCamey has indicated as allowable.

Upon entry of this response, Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-16, and 18-24 are currently pending in the application; Claims 1, 10, 13-15, 18, 19, 21 and 22 having been presently amended, and dependent Claims 12 and 17 having been presently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants express thanks for Examiner McCamey's indication that independent Claim 24 is allowed.

Applicants further express thanks for Examiner McCamey's indication that dependent Claims 12-14 and 17-19 recite allowable subject matter, such that the dependent claims, although currently objected to, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 15 to recite features of dependent Claims 12 and 17, respectively, which have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have further amended dependent Claims 13, 14, 18, and 19 so as not to depend from canceled claims.

Applicants have also amended independent Claims 10, 21, and 22 to recite features similar to those recited in canceled dependent Claims 12 and 17. Further, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent Claims 2, 4-9, 11, 16, 20, and 23 are allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend, as well as for their own features.

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Thus, in accordance with Examiner McCamey's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of remaining Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-16, and 18-24.

In the outstanding Office Action, independent Claim 15 was objected to because of an informality. In response, Applicants have amended the claim to recite "an image apparatus," as required by Examiner McCamey. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to independent Claim 15 be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 15, 16, and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,371,793 to Doorhy et al. (Doorhy). In response, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of the claims has been overcome for the above reasons.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-16, and 18-24 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,

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